



Bamboo Works

The Oldest Ethnicity

Rural Craft and Cultural Hub

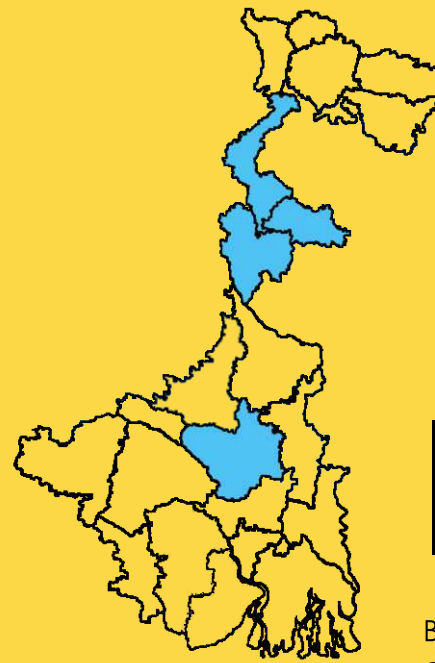
Bardhaman, Malda, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur

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Hubs of Bamboo works have been developed at Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda and Bardhaman districts as part of the Rural Craft and Cultural Hub initiative undertaken by the Department of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises & Textiles, Government of West Bengal in collaboration with UNESCO.



1. the location

Bamboo works and Basket weaving is a traditional craft of Bengal. This well developed art is concentrated in the following areas:

In Birbhum, the main blocks involved are Sriniketan and Mollarbazar

In Bardhaman, Ausgram I, Kalna II and Kanksha are the main blocks

Gangarampur and Kushmandi in Dakshin Dinajpur
Kaliagunj and Raigunj in Uttar Dinajpur

Bamongola and Gajol of Malda



Bamboo is one of the most commonly used materials in the daily life of West Bengal. The traditional products of basketry are winnows which is a type of tray for everyday use and rituals in the households of Bengal. The indigenous communities developed special shapes and patterns of baskets based on their local traditions, needs and techniques. Hand held fan, sieves etc are also made then painted with auspicious symbols are used in marriage and other ceremonies.

Nowadays, craftsmen are producing various diversified products like lamp shades, coasters etc. The artisans from murshidabad can make Jewellery along with traditional items, and sell products in the same range as Bardhaman.

Apart from the objects made by bamboo weaving masks are carved out from bamboo in Dakshin Dinajpur which are used for ritualistic purposes, and for decoration.

2. the craft



3. the craftspersons

The art form is a heritage to livelihood. In Dinajpur the art form has concentration in two villages. Kunoor of Kaligunj block and Ushaharan of Kushmandi block. Most of the artisans of bamboo works fall under the Byadh and Mahali community.

Bankura district falling under Eastern Chhotonagpur Plateau looks like handpicked by Mother Nature and is blessed with old hills, murmuring rivers, ancient temples all bearing testimony to a rich and resourceful culture and tradition. Bamboo craft is the primary source of livelihood for about 60 craftsmen in Bankura.

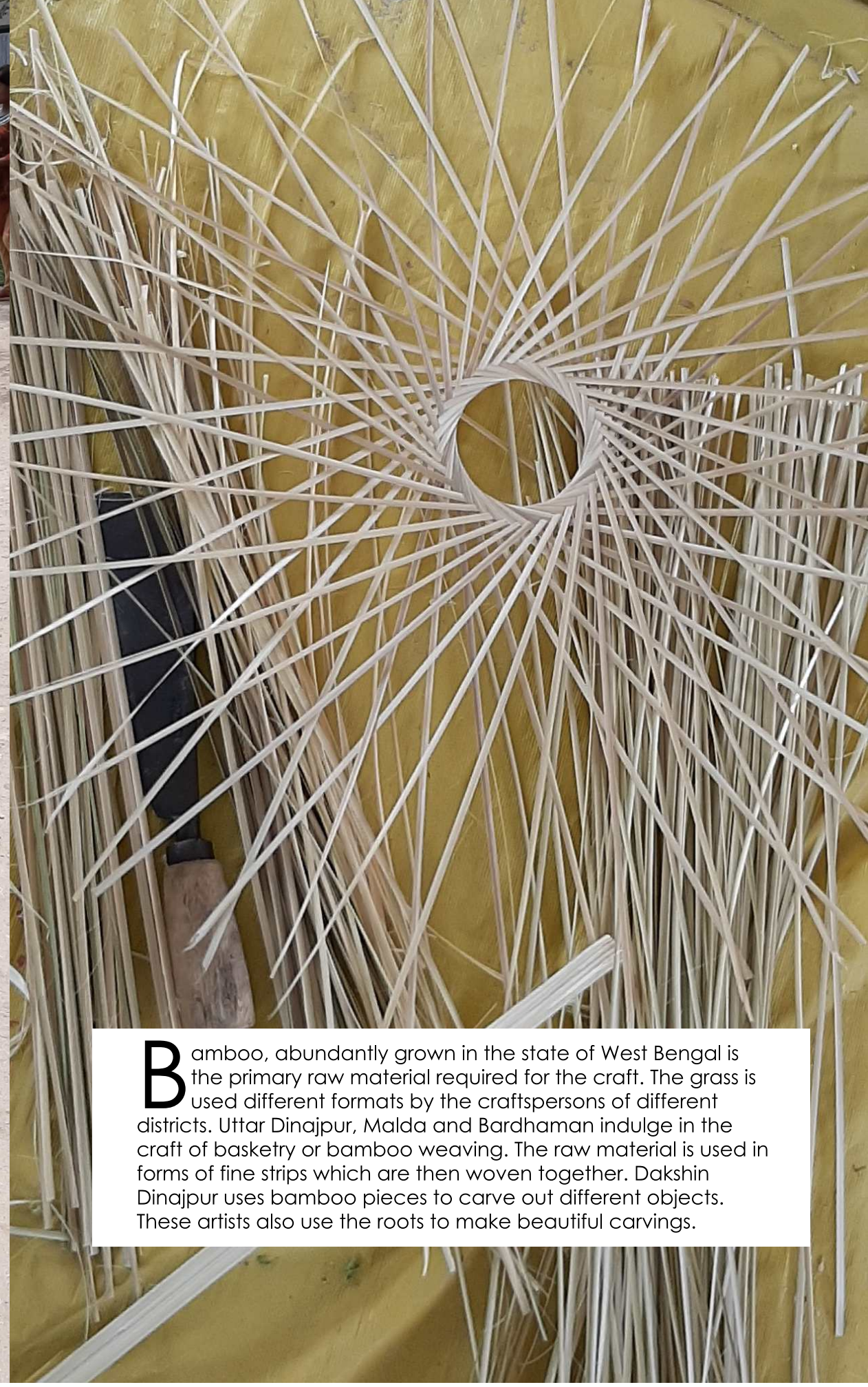
There are about 139 Bamboo Craftsmen in Gushkara area of Bardhaman district. It is full of religious and historical destinations. The culture of Bardhaman is a mix of a various customs and traditions.

District wise Coverage

District	Blocks	No. of Beneficiaries
Bardhaman	Ausgram I, Kalna II, Kanksha	169
Uttar Dinajpur	Kaliagunj, Raigunj	78
Dakshin Dinajpur	Gangarampur, Kushmandi	74
Malda	Bamongola, Gajol	78
Total		399



4. the raw material



Bamboo, abundantly grown in the state of West Bengal is the primary raw material required for the craft. The grass is used in different formats by the craftspersons of different districts. Uttar Dinajpur, Malda and Bardhaman indulge in the craft of basketry or bamboo weaving. The raw material is used in forms of fine strips which are then woven together. Dakshin Dinajpur uses bamboo pieces to carve out different objects. These artists also use the roots to make beautiful carvings.

5. the tools

Bamboo craft makes use of basic cutting and drilling tools along with adhesive. The specific tools required are:



1. **Saw:** used to cut the bamboos into pieces
2. **Chisels:** used for fine carving
3. **Awls:** used for making small bores
4. **Scissors:** used for cutting the ends of the slices
5. **Small Hammers:** used for assistance in carving
6. **Sand paper:** used for polishing the product



Adhesive and Glue: used for pasting in case of need

6. the process





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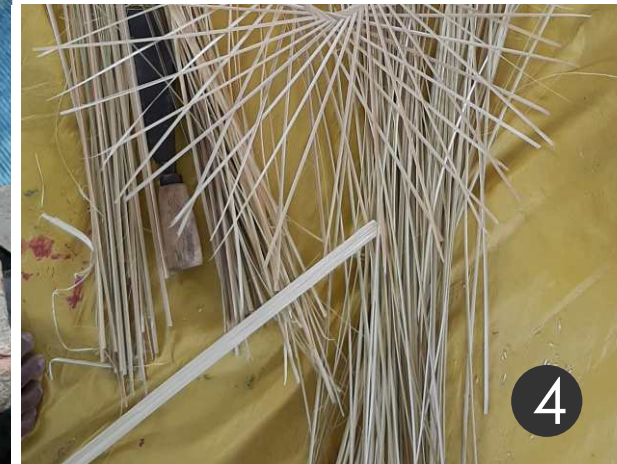
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Preparing the Bamboo

1. The bamboos are cut into required sizes using a saw.

2. Chisels of various grades are used for peeling the skin of the bamboo.

3. The cut pieces are soaked in water for about three days, dried naturally and sliced in desired shapes and sizes.



4



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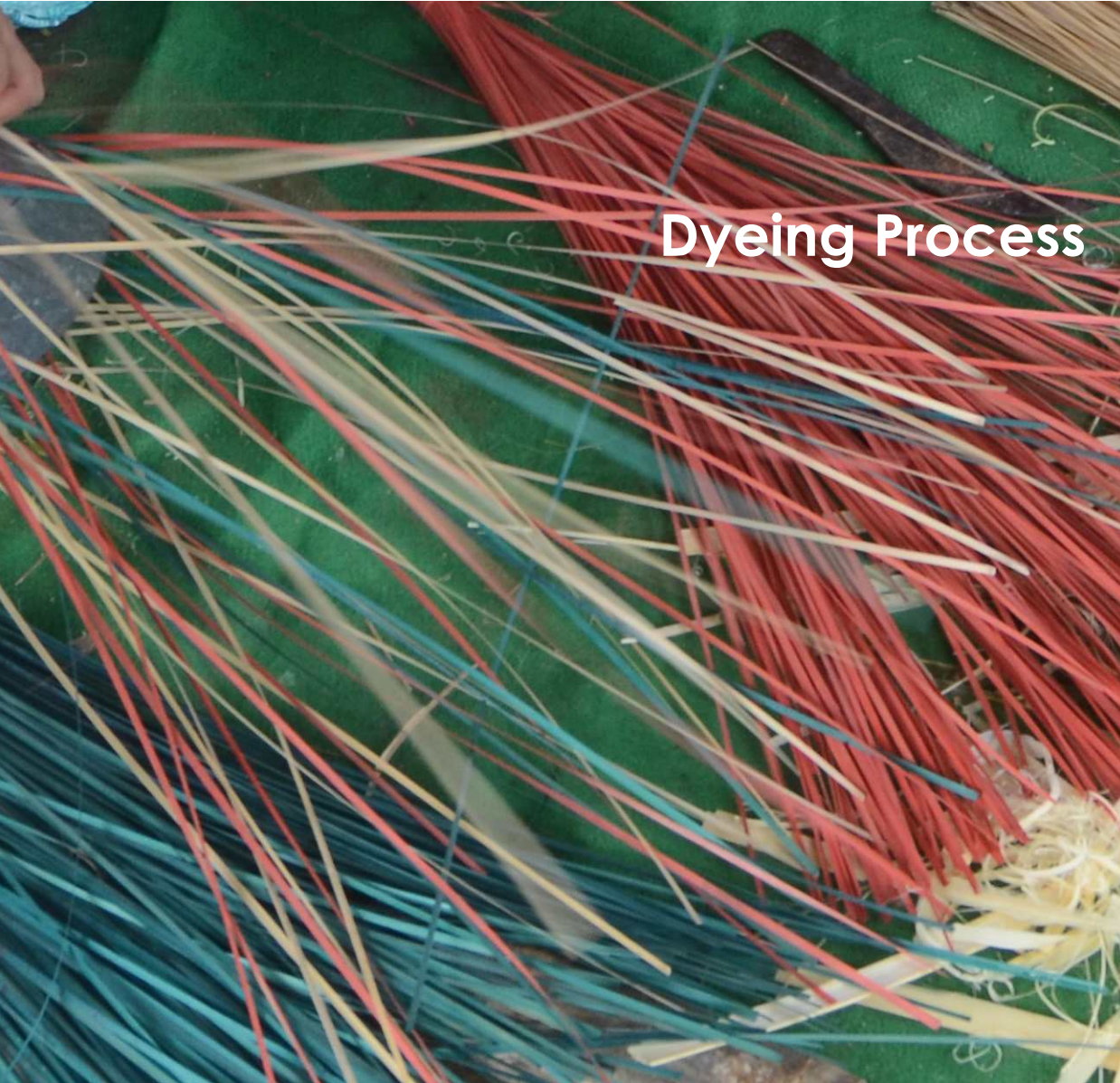
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4. The drying process involves dipping the bamboo in paraffin wax.

5. A solution of Borax and Boric Acid is used to make the bamboo anti termite.

6. Dried bamboo is then ready to take different shapes as per the design.

Dyeing Process



1. Water is boiled in a open lid container.
2. Dyes are added to the boiling water according to the required proportions.
3. The powder dye is stirred well to make a homogenous solution
4. The bamboo strips are then dipped in the dye solution and boiled for 10-15 minutes.
5. The strips are then taken out, cooled and washed well with clean water and hanged for air drying.



Process for Bamboo Weaving

The parts of a basket are the base, the side walls and the rim. A basket may also have a lid, handle, or embellishments.

Thin strips are peeled off from the Bamboo which are used for weaving
The base of the products is first woven.

The products are finished stitching strips for durability and firmness.

At times the strips are colored and woven in to add to the beauty of the finished product.



Process for Bamboo Carving

The small bores of bamboo are taken.

Fine slices are made.

Ends of the slices are cut.

Carving is done using sharp tools assisted by small hammers.

The product is polished.

7. the product

Keeping the traditional basket making intact using the same weaving process leading artisans are making diversified products like jewelry and lampshades.

The products are marked by fineness and have good market.

Furniture are also made using bamboo. The craft has huge potential as it is eco-friendly, printable, relatively cheap and light weight. Despite the abundant supply of raw material, the huge potential and skilled craftsmen the demand for products in the national and international market is low.

Masks and Sculptures are carved out of bamboos which are used for decorating purpose. Products are also made using bamboo roots.



8. directory

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